

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/069,145
AMENDMENT

PATENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 of the specification as follows:

A major concern with the use of artificial organs and biomedical devices is the untoward interactions of blood upon contacting a foreign surface. The most obvious complications are those related to the haemostatic mechanism, which can lead to thrombus formation and impaired function or occlusion of medical devices. Intravascular stenting is often used after angioplasty to prevent a reocclusion of the damaged vessel following ~~dilatation~~ dilation. One problem inherent to stent implantation is a possible restenosis. The process of restenosis is attributed to myointimal hyperplasia as well as to thrombus formation (Palmaz, 1993, Van Beusekom et al., 1993). The interaction of platelets with the stent surface may have significance not only due to their involvement in thrombus formation, but also by the release of platelet derived growth factor that may be included in the stimulation of smooth muscle cell growth (Palmaz, 1993, Ross, 1986). Heparin is routinely used for the prophylaxis of both surgical and medical thrombosis.

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Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 8 as follows:

The xerogel is derived from a tetraalkoxysilane such as tetraethoxysilane (TEOS). In case more brittle xerogels are desired, part of the tetraalkoxysilane (e.g. TEOS) is replaced by an organomodified alkoxysilane, preferably an alkylsubstituted alkoxysilane. As particularly preferred alkylsubstituted alkoxysilanes can be mentioned methyltriethoxysilane $\text{MeSi}(\text{OEt})_3$ (METES), dimethyldiethoxysilane $\text{Me}_2\text{Si}(\text{OEt})_2$ (DMDES) or ethyltriethoxysilane $\text{EtSi}(\text{OEt})_3$ (ETES). In case about 25% of the amount of TEOS is ~~replaced~~ replaced by one of the aforementioned organomodified alkoxysilanes, an increased release rate of the drug can be foreseen.